

Florence, May 10,

1859.

My Dear Friend.

We have been in Florence more than a week. It will be a fortnight tomorrow since we took leave of Rome. And I assure you we have thought more of the city we have left than of the one we have come to. I cannot get up any enthusiasm about Florence like that I had come to feel about Rome. The streets here are wider and cleaner. The houses generally are of a brighter color and more cheerful aspect. The immediate suburbs are much more varied and picturesque. Still it is a much less interesting city. There is no St Peter's here - no Coliseum - no Catacombs. I am satisfied that one should go every where else, if possible, before he goes to the Eternal City. Perhaps another reason why I am less pleased with Florence than Rome is, that here I have no acquaintance.

(excepting Dr. Tuckerman) and
my Rome left several dear
friends. I need not tell you
who one of them is.

The ride we took together, the
last afternoon, I shall remem-
ber as one of the pleasantest in-
cidents of my visit. I am sorry
you were for a moment disturb-
ed, when you learnt that I
walked to my apartment. It
was better for me to do so - as
I had begun to feel a little
shilly - and the sun soon
warmed me. - Our journey

to Florence was delightful.
Our English companions were
agreeable - both of them being
Unitarian and Anti-Slavery.
The lady a relative of Harriet
Martineau. Our vitturino pro-
ved to be a comfortable one - our
vitturino honest, obliging and
tolerably intelligent. The road
excellent and the country tho'
which we passed, much of it
picturesque. We turned aside
to visit all the objects of inter-
est - the Etruscan Remains at
Civita Castellana - the Bridge of
Augustus ^{over} the Arno - the little
temple of Clitumnus - the

Halls of Termi - the Church of Sta-
sisi - and the Etruscan tomb
near Perugia. At Arezzo we re-
ceived tidings of the Revolution
in Tuscany and, thence and all
along the road thereafter, we
witnessed the enthusiasm of
the people in the cause of Italy.
We found Florence rather quiet
- In a city that had just
dismissed her sovereign and
initiated a revolution. The in-
habitants were all in the ^{streets} city-
and their countenances shone
with the consciousness of a high
purpose. Tri colored rosettes were
conspicuous on their hats or
their bosoms - and the colored flags
were floating from the towers
of the old & the newer Ducal
Palaces and from the military
stations. Young men were run-
ning to the offices for enlistment
and giving themselves up to
the service of Italy - But with
all this there was little noise.
The current of public sentiment
and feeling seemed to meet with
no obstructions and therefore,
though deep and strong, it flow-
ed on silently.
We know very little of what
is going on at the seat of war.

Reports that come one day are con-
tradicted the next. But a terrible
conflict is undoubtedly pending
and all Europe may ere long
be embroiled.

This morning I found at our
Banker's (much to my surprise)
a copy of the Anti Slavery States
and of April 16, which I read
with avidity. Is it not very
gratifying to read the testimony
also to the excellence of Miss Re-
mon's lectures and the cordi-
ality with which she is receiv-
ed?

I am sorry to learn, that
the Personal Liberty Bill has
failed both in the New York
and the Massachusetts Sep-
lature. I wish I could hear
from you - and respecting Eu-
lia before I leave Florence
for our movements are very
uncertain, whether we shall
go. But we shall get away
from this place before the close
of this week.

Give my love to Emma, and
Lucia and Anne Chapman
and believe me

Truly yours

Samuel J. May

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Letter from S. J. May
to Caroline Weston
dated Florence 1859



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